

JANUARY 23, 1949

Americans torture Germans to extort "confessions"

By FRED REDMAN

TODAY I am able to tell the full story, revealed in Washington, of the American war trials scandal. It is an ugly story of barbarous tortures inflicted in the name of Allied justice.

It is time that the British people knew all the facts. Little has appeared in our Press until today.

The charge is that American soldiers, building evidence against Germans accused of war crimes, have behaved with the same sadistic cruelty as the beasts who terrorised Europe when it was under Nazi domination.

The truth has come out through the persistence of an American lawyer and the frank horror of an American judge who refuses to be muzzled.

Judge Edward Van Roden, member of a U.S. Army Commission of Inquiry, tells how burning matches were forced under the fingernails of a prisoner by American investigators to extort a confession. For months, he says, men were kept in solitary confinement on near-starvation rations.

And they were beaten up and savagely kicked till strong men were reduced to broken wrecks ready to mumble any admission demanded by their prosecutors.

The War Department have shown the judge's personal report only to General Lucius Clay, their military commander in Germany. Washington suspects the reason was that it was too shocking for public disclosure.

But Judge Van Roden is not so squeamish. The grim truth, he declares, must be told.

There has been one inquiry already. The Army Commission of which Judge Van Roden was a member found that methods used to get evidence from

Commission sent to Germany to investigate was even more candid.

"All but two of the Germans, in the 129 cases we investigated, had been kicked in the testicles beyond repair," he charged. "This was standard operating procedure with our American investigators."

They would put a black hood over the accused's head and then punch him in the face with brass knuckles."

U.S. Army prosecution teams had, he said, posed as priests to hear confessions and give absolution.

At mock trials men who refused to confess were confronted by a crucifix and burning candles. Those sham courts, attended by men in U.S. Army uniform, passed sham death sentences. Then the accused were told: "Sign this confession and we will get you acquitted."

Army witnesses explained that they had "a tough case to crack," and that "persuasive methods" were necessary.

Is it possible that the tragic farce of the Dachau trials could have happened also in the British Zone?

"No," say the War Office. "Germans on trial have

BREATHE OUT, DIANA!



Blue-eyed, seventeen-year-old Diana Dors, starring in Gainsborough's "Diamond City," finds it rather painful. Two dressers have to heave on the lacing of her whalebone corsets to reduce her waist by an inch and a half. She plays a brazen barmaid in a South African diamond rush of the 1870's.

And, once dressed, she can't sit down!

TWO FRIENDS OF MARGARET HURT IN CAR CRASH

TWO friends of Princess Margaret, guests of the Royal family at Sandringham, were slightly injured in a car crash yesterday.

They were Mr. Jeremy Tree and Captain Naylor-Leyland. The crash occurred as they were leaving Sandringham to spend the week-end at the house of Sir Humphrey de Trafford near Royston, Herts.

Their car was involved in a collision with a lorry near King's Lynn.

NEW MEAT TALKS

New meat negotiations between Britain and Argentina are expected to begin in Buenos Aires early next week.—Reuter.

HUNT FOR 5 SHIRT-SLEEVE SOLDIERS

FIVE soldiers in shirt-sleeves, held as absentees, escaped from the Central Recruiting Office, Great Scotland Yard last night.

They were being taken from their cells to an exercise yard when one of them noticed a door left open at the end of a tunnel. Pushing the escort aside, they reached the street and disappeared in Whitehall.

The five, all privates, are Arthur Hounslow, 21, Royal Berkshire Regt.; Robert McAlpine, 20, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; Thomas McDermott, 27, Cameronians; Joseph Whitehair, 20, Royal Norfolk Regt.; and Sapper Hutchinson, 21, Royal Engineers.

McAlpine, McDermott, Whitehair and Hutchinson wore battle dress trousers.

Budget: Letter

Stoned to death on bomb site

ERNEST CLIFFORD MELVILLE—"a man without an enemy"—was found stoned to death yesterday on a blitz site in Croft-street, Swansea.

His father, Mr. Lewis Melville, said last night: "He was an innocent sort of boy without a care in the world."

"He had no girl friends—and he had no enemies."

Melville, thirty-six-year-old corporation workman, was found by two children.

His attacker had used jagged pieces of rubble in a frenzy of brutality. The victim was identified by his wrist-watch.

Melville was last seen on Friday evening, when he left his parents' home in Watkin-street to go for his usual drink at The Full Moon public house, facing the bombed site.

Gaol breakers on car murder bid charge

THREE men captured at Southampton yesterday after escaping from Maidstone Gaol were charged with attempting to murder Police Sergeant Donald Sedgley by trying to run him down with a car.

The men, Keith Stephen Cridge, 22; Albert Edward Simpkins, 26; and Joseph Roberts, 22, were remanded until tomorrow.

'FIFTY LETTERS' FOR MOTHER

Budget: Letter to shopkeepers

THOUSANDS of shopkeepers throughout the country will next week receive from the National Union of Small Shopkeepers a letter warning them: "Don't buy until after the April Budget."

"Owing to the possibilities of slashing reductions in purchase tax, we urge shopkeepers to buy only the minimum amount of goods in the next three months."

"Should purchase tax be reduced, small shopkeepers will lose large sums by goods being left on their shelves."

The head office staff of the union were working at top speed yesterday to get the letters sent out.

'I'd rather have a King'—Cripps

Sir Stafford Cripps, speaking at Bristol last night, told a Communist heckler who objected to the cost of the Monarchy: "Our monarchy is probably the cheapest form of titular head of any government."

"If you have a President it is just as expensive, only in a different way, whether it is the head of the state in the U.S.S.R. or anywhere else."

"I personally prefer a constitutional monarchy to a politically-elected President."

There has been one inquiry already. The Army Commission of which Judge Van Roden was a member found that methods used to get evidence from Germans accused of war crimes were "highly questionable."

Because of this they have asked elementary for twenty-nine Germans under sentence of death. Some Germans who are to be spared the execution squad were S.S. men accused of machine-gunning eighty-three American prisoners in the horrifying Malmedy (Belgium) massacre of December, 1944.

In 1946, at Dachau, seventy-three Germans, many youngsters in their teens and early twenties, were brought to trial for this evil slaughter. All were found guilty. Forty-three were sentenced to death.

Few who read accounts of the trials pitied them. But Willis Everett, the lawyer given the task of defending them, heard tales which made him wonder what new forces of horror, masquerading as justice, were loose in Europe's American Zone. For two years he campaigned, at his own expense, so that right might be done.

His stories were repeated to the Simpson Commission, appointed by Mr. Royall, Secretary to the Army. And the Commission's report, while upholding that generally the Dachau official trials themselves were fair, did not dispute that cruel "mock trials" had been held to trap prisoners into confessing.

Judge Van Roden, one of the three members of the

Is it possible that the tragic farce of the Dachau trials could have happened also in the British Zone? "No," say the War Office. "Germans on trial have been treated with the same fairness as British soldiers."

Britain has tried 937 Germans for war crimes. Of these, 230 have been sentenced to death; 260 acquitted. Like the Americans, we have field investigation sections to collect evidence. But our men have been brought up to believe that a policeman civil or military, gives a square deal.

One-armed man lowered from fire

A ONE-ARMED man was lowered six storeys by a rope when the *Greyhound Express* offices and printing works off Ludgate-circus, London, caught fire last night.

Twenty pumps and three turntable ladders were manned by about 200 firemen.

Two women and three men were rescued by firemen. The women were telephone operators.

They were taken to hospital to be treated for shock and minor injuries.

The officer in charge of the fire brigade told the *Pictorial*: "The entire building is likely to be gutted."

Adjoining offices and a Ministry of Works building were endangered.

'FILTHY LETTERS' FOR MOTHER OF GIRL WHO WED PRIEST

By DONALD ZEC

THE parents of "pretty, twenty-two-year-old Patricia Ball, who married Mr. Tim Coakley, a Catholic priest, of Swansea, in a London register office on Thursday, have received a number of abusive letters.

Mr. Coakley broke his vows of celibacy in marrying Miss Ball, one of his parishioners, and their wedding has meant excommunication for them both.

But the brunt of an attack from people all over Britain has fallen on Mr. and Mrs. W. Ball, the bride's grey-haired parents.

Last night, in her Swansea home, Mrs. Ball told me:

"We have received the most terrible letters from all over the country, from

Scotland and Ireland as well.

"I have not dared to show my face today. Everyone is talking.

"Some of the letters are so filthy I threw them into the fire. Many said 'You are allowing your daughter to live in sin and committing the couples' souls to damnation.'

"But we have had letters of sympathy too. Mostly from non-Catholics."

Mrs. Ball went on:

"But what could we have done? Thrown our daughter out into the street? She is over twenty-one."

"We are staunch Catholics, and were against the wedding from the start. I went to London to help her, but not to the wedding. I just could not bring myself to go

A bishop praises Lenin

DECLARING that Communism and Christianity ought both to have a similar object, the welfare of the common man, the Bishop of Birmingham, Dr. E. W. Barnes, commented in a letter yesterday: "Unfortunately in many lands the salt has lost its savour."

His letter was in reply to correspondence in the *Birmingham Post*.

It concluded: "I am not a Communist, for I believe that our way of quiet development leads effectively, without revolution, to the welfare of the common man. But I desire from us friendly recognition of the greatness of Lenin's achievement, lest misrepresentation and suspicion should lead to the culminating disaster of a third world war."

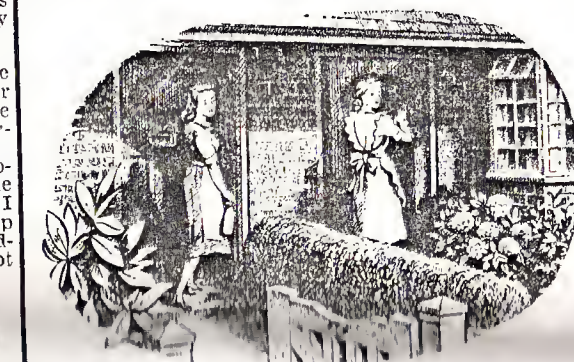
Watkin-street to go for his usual drink at The Full Moon public house, facing the bombed site.

The men, Keith Stephen Cridge, 22; Albert Edward Simpkins, 26; and Joseph Roberts, 22, were remanded until tomorrow.

Southampton's Chief Constable, Mr. C. G. Box, told the magistrates that at 1.25 a.m. the three men were seen in a stolen car.

A cordon of police in charge of Sergeant Sedgley was drawn across the road, but the car did not stop and the constables had to jump to avoid being run down.

A policeman jumped on to its bonnet. It then reversed and struck a traffic bollard. It continued in reverse into a side road, where it struck some railings and stopped.



"There goes Nurse Franklin!"

In the black Gladstone bag, the one that fascinates little girls and boys, Nurse Franklin has packed all that she needs for helping people in their sickness. Swabs, scissors and saline; bandages, masks and forceps. And, like every other District Nurse in Britain almost without exception, she carries a bottle of 'DETTOL'

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(charia)